

## **Brief Status of King Coal Highway Project**

July 8, 2009

### Project Description

The West Virginia Department of Transportation, in conjunction with FHWA is proposing to construct the 96-mile King Coal Highway from the vicinity of Williamson, WV to the vicinity of Bluefield. The western terminus has been established to be the intersection of US-52 and US-119, while the eastern terminus is Interstate 77. The study involves the WV counties of Mingo, Logan, McDowell, Wyoming, and Mercer and the Virginia county of Tazewell.

### Completed milestones and segments

Record of Decision completed on 8/24/2000.

- A. Red Jacket project (public private partnership project) from Taylorville to Horsepen Mountain, with total roadway of approximately 15 miles.
- B. Currently under construction and approximately 15 miles will be partially open to traffic in Fall 2010.
- C. Interchange of US 52 and US 460 northeast of Bluefield, WV is partially open to traffic, approximately 2 miles.
- D. Indian Ridge interchange (Coalfields Expressway and King Coal Highway interchange) is partially complete.
- E. Airport Road to John Nash Boulevard section is under design, approximately 3 miles.

### Highway Section that is currently being reevaluated

This segment is from Belo to Delbarton, and is approximately 6 miles in length. This section is being proposed to be constructed by CONSOL of Kentucky. CONSOL is proposing to construct the road grade as part of their post mine land use associated with their surface mine permit.

Status of the reevaluation and other activities:

- A. Public meeting has been held on 12/11/08. 816 comments were received in support of the project, with 0 comments in opposition.
- B. Schedule for reevaluation is not definite. Current plan is to have a draft of the reevaluation completed by Fall 2009, with an intent to finalize by Spring 2010.
- C. A on-site in the field meeting is planned with EPA to discuss the project and the scope of the reevaluation. Potential meeting dates with EPA, FHWA, and the State in August 2009.
- D. USACE 404 Permit Application was submitted by CONSOL of Kentucky. USACE published a public notice on 12/03/08. EPA commented on the public notice.